

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1102

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Dean Colleen Conway-Welch and the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing upon the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, Vanderbilt University is a comprehensive urban university originally endowed by Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt and established in 1873 to "unite all sections of our common country"; and

WHEREAS, the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing was established under the supervision of Vanderbilt Hospital in 1908, when nursing education was limited to private facilities opened by hospitals to train their nurses; and

WHEREAS, in 1925, the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing became independent from Vanderbilt Hospital; and

WHEREAS, throughout the course of its 100-year history, the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in the field of nursing education by means of a number of significant events and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, in 1933, the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing became the first four-year school in Tennessee and only the fourth school in the country to award a bachelor's degree in nursing; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Fund, in 1935, funded efforts to offer public health support in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the School of Nursing has been a partner with the United States Public Health Service to train graduate nursing students since 1941; since 1943, it has been a partner with the United States Cadet Nursing Corps; and

WHEREAS, in 1945, Vanderbilt became one of three schools of nursing in the United States to be accredited by the National League of Nursing Education and the National

Organization for Public Health Nursing; in that year it also became a member of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Nursing; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing established the first Master's of Science degree in nursing program in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the School of Nursing, in 1969, became the first university in the Nation with an endowed chair in nursing; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Vanderbilt offered the country's first master's degree program for family nurse practitioners and pioneered the "Bridge" to the Master's of Science in nursing program for non-nursing students with at least three years of college education; and

WHEREAS, the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, in 1986, was the first in Tennessee to establish a specialty in nursing administration at the master's degree level; and

WHEREAS, since 1997, the School of Nursing has been the only school in the United States approved by the Pentagon for Air Force Academy graduates to earn a master's degree in nursing; and

WHEREAS, the International Nursing Coalition for Mass Casualty Education was established at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing in 2000, and the National Center for Emergency Preparedness was established at the School in 2002; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the United States Health Resources and Services Administration chose the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing to deliver online emergency preparedness programs to healthcare professionals; this year also saw the establishment of a partnership with Hyogo University in Japan for emergency planning and response; and

WHEREAS, the School of Nursing created a nursing curriculum in Nepal, Tibet, in 2004; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing received a grant from the United States to establish the Medical Reserve Corps of trained healthcare professionals to respond to events of mass casualty or other emergencies in this region; and

WHEREAS, the Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization designated the School of Nursing as an official collaborator on disaster relief and healthcare technology in 2006; also in 2006, the University of Botswana and the Minister of Health of

Botswana began partnering with the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing to assist Botswana nurses in managing HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, the remarkable education, leadership, and service demonstrated by the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing has earned grants from such esteemed organizations as the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Rural Health, the State of Tennessee, University Community Health Services, the Commonwealth Fund, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the National Institutes of Health, the National Center for Research Resources, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the United States Health Resources Administration; and

WHEREAS, assisting in providing virtually every aspect of healthcare, the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing works with numerous clinics, such as the West End Women's Health Services, the Park Avenue School Nurse Program, Stratton School Nurses, Fall-Hamilton School Nurses, the Bridges of Williamson County, the Blakemore, First Steps, the Hadley Park Towers Primary Care Clinic, the HouseCalls Program, the Parthenon Towers Primary Care Clinic, the Vine Hill Community Health Clinic; and

WHEREAS, the School of Nursing works with employer-based health clinics like Dickson County Schools Employer Health Clinic, Harman Becker Employer Health Clinic, Lewisburg Sanford Employer Health Clinic, Maryville Sanford Employer Health Clinic, Shelbyville Sanford Employer Health Clinic, and the Clarksville Employer Health Clinic; and

WHEREAS, a significant contributor to the welfare of Tennesseans, the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing has educated 2,471 nurses serving in eighty-seven of Tennessee's ninety-five counties; and

WHEREAS, the School of Nursing alumni in Tennessee work at Aquinas College, Belmont University, Cumberland University, East Tennessee State University, Middle Tennessee State University, Milligan College, Southern Adventist University, Tennessee State University, Tennessee Tech University, Union University, the University of Memphis, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and the University of Tennessee at Martin; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Margaret Bridgeman of the Russell Sage Foundation said of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, "The School has been a pioneer in the profession of nursing and has contributed largely to the development of educational standards, curriculum patterns, and teaching methods in the field, pointing the way for many nursing educators elsewhere. The situation of the school is among the most favorable in the county, on the campus of a great university with exceptional facilities for professional education immediately accessible. It is also exceptional in having an independent endowment"; and

WHEREAS, as Dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, Colleen Conway-Welch has built one of the top twenty nursing programs in America; and

WHEREAS, the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing's commitment to excellence is wholly deserving of respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and Dean Colleen Conway-Welch upon the occasion of its 100th anniversary, commend the School's faculty, staff, students, and alumni for exceeding the highest of standards and expectations in their endeavors to enrich the lives of the good people of Tennessee through caring leadership, and salute their efforts to hope, opportunity, and inspiration for generations to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.